Socialist Worker

Local TD receives £10,000 from Ben Dunne!

The recent scandal involving Michael Lowry and Ben Dunne raises a lot of questions about the funding of political parties and their relationship with big business. It also inadvertently reveals the real nature of democracy under capitalism. Many politicians argue that every citizen is equal because each one has a vote. But the Dunne affair shows clearly that rich people like Ben Dunne can buy political influence. Our political system is controlled by people who have money.

Haughey is given £10,000 as gift:

Take the case of Sean Haughey, Fianna Fail TD for North Central. He describes his family as "an honest to God, down to earth, ordinary"one. That's the same family that lives in unbelievable luxury in Kinsealy. The same family that owns a 300 acre grounds with one of the finest rose gardens in Europe, an island valued at £250,000, and, amongst other things, a 60ft yacht also valued at £250,000.

The question is, where did this wealth come from? And how is 'ordinary' Sean Haughey able to spend an estimated £200,000 to garner votes at election time.

We know Ben Dunne gave him £10,000 over several recent elections. But that still leaves a lot of money unaccounted for.

How many other donations did Haughey receive from big business?

And did he have to grant favours in return?

During the 1989 election, Sean Haughey ran a gimmicky campaign very much marked by the stunts and ploys of his father, Charles Haughey. He held coffee mornings in local pubs where constituents were invited to

drink as much as they liked (and not just coffee) for free. Celebrities such as Brendan Grace and former Miss Ireland, Michelle Rocca turned up at his meetings. That costs money.
His brother Ciaran even promised four women a trip around Dublin in one of his helicopters if they voted for Sean. Is this the type of 'research' politicians say they need money for?

Fianna Fail is No friend of Workers

Fianna Fail is a party dedicated to protecting the interests of big business. This is clear from past corruption scandals, like Goodman, who paid more to the Fianna Fail Party in the 1980's than he did in taxes. But they need the votes of workers to get in power. So around election time they patronise people with glamorous campaigns and expensive gimmicks. Like his father Sean Haughey will stop at nothing.

But who pays for these expensive stunts? That's a question voters should be asking when Sean Haughey's canvassers come knocking on doors this time round.

The Alternative

Unlike the other parties the Socialist Workers Party will not be receiving donations from big business, simply because the rich will never fund organisations who intend to remove their wealth. We will be standing candidates in the next election.
In the North Central area , Richie Brown a worker in Team Aer Lingus will be standing. Our campaign will centre on issues that effect workers and our belief that only workers action, not parliament, can effect real change. You only have to look at the protests and strikes going on in Belgrade and South Korea to see that's true.

We're urging everyone who agrees with us on the issues outlined above to support our candidate, Ritchie Brown, and to get involved with us. There are no free drinks or helicopter rides on offer, only the opportunity to build for real socialist change.

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

If you would like to join the SWP or receive more information fill in this slip and return to PO Box 1648, Dublin 8 Tel: (01) 872 2682

Name _____

Address _____

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